(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Four-laning of National Highway No. 5 (1016 km) along Golden Quadrilateral (GQ) and National Highway No. 7 (773 km) along North-South Corridor are proposed to be done by National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) under National Highways Development Project (NHDP) and are targeted to be substantially completed by December, 2003 and December, 2007 respectively. Besides, four-laning of National Highway No. 9 for a length of 49.5 km is also being done by NHAI and is targeted to be completed by December, 2003. The balance length of National Highways will be considered for four-laning in phases depending on the volume of traffic, availability of funds and *inter-se* priority.

Connection of Coastline of Gujarat with NH

5389. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the States coastline are connected with National Highways;

(b) upto what extent the coastlines of Gujarat are connected with National Highways; and

(c) what are Government's Plan to provide National Highways all along the coast of Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There are 6 National Highways (NH No. 6, 8, 8A, 8D & 8E) aggregating to about 362 km connected with the Gujarat coastline.

(c) The declaration of any road as National Highway depends not only on the consideration that it runs along the coast but on several other considerations. The proposals for declaration of National Highways received from Gujarat will be considered alongwith similar proposals received from other States after the finalisation of Tenth Five Year Plan and availability of funds keeping in view the revised criteria for declaration of new National Highways, traffic needs and *inter-se* priority.